

the odds of survival for someone experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest.

An automated external defibrillator, or AED, is the single most effective treatment for starting the heart after a sudden cardiac arrest. And because the chances of survival decrease up to 10 percent for every minute that passes, every second is critical.

Schools, as you've heard, are central gathering places in our communities that make them the ideal locations for AEDs. Placed in our schools, AEDs can save not only students but also staff and parents and many other visitors who come through our schools every day.

The Josh Miller HEARTS Act establishes a grant program to ensure that AEDs will be available to every elementary and secondary school, public and private across the country.

AED/CPR training is also an important part of raising awareness in using AEDs correctly. H.R. 4926 makes funds for training available to schools that already have AEDs, as well as to schools that will receive AEDs through this program.

Finally, this legislation also requires coordination with local emergency medical services and integration into the school's emergency response plan, to ensure their effective use within each community.

I would like to take a moment to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON for making this legislation a priority and for moving it forward. And I want to thank Representative KUHL and representatives on both sides of the aisle for their support of this very important initiative. I thank Representative YARMUTH for his leadership, and I also would like to recognize Dr. Terry Gordon, a cardiologist who was instrumental in pushing a similar effort successfully in my home State of Ohio and who has put his whole heart into making this life-saving device available across this Nation his vocation.

Finally, I would like to close by thanking the Miller family, especially Josh's parents, Ken and Jerri Miller, for their courage and for transforming their life into this life-saving mission. Losing a young life like Josh's can make us feel helpless, but through these tragedies, many families like the Millers and the Acomporas have found the strength to act. They have found the courage to speak out so that their other children can have the chance that their children never did, and so that other families will not have to feel their pain.

Although H.R. 4926 bears Josh Miller's name, it is truly in memory of all those who might have been saved, and in celebration of those who because of this program will have the opportunity to live their lives to their fullest potential. Let's give these children that chance.

Mr. YARMUTH. We reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. KUHL of New York. Mr. Speaker, in closing let me say that this bill is a

bill that makes a difference between life and death. It is one that all of our colleagues should be supporting, and I recommend its support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman from New York, and I thank Congresswoman SUTTON for her wonderful work on this piece of legislation.

I want to also echo my thanks to Dr. Terry Gordon who happens to be a childhood friend of mine and a native of Louisville, Kentucky. He deserves a great deal of credit for beginning the movement that has resulted hopefully in the passage of this bill today.

I urge my colleagues to support this marvelous piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4926, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish a grant program for automated external defibrillators in elementary and secondary schools."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FATHER'S DAY RESOLUTION

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1243) recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1243

Whereas fathers factor significantly in the lives of children;

Whereas fathers play an important role in teaching their children life lessons and preparing them to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas children with involved fathers are more likely to do well in school, have a better sense of well-being, and have fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas supportive fathers promote the positive physical, social, emotional, and mental development of children;

Whereas promoting responsible fatherhood can help increase the chances that children will grow up with two caring parents;

Whereas when fathers are actively involved in the upbringing of children, the children demonstrate greater self-control and a greater ability to take initiative;

Whereas responsible fatherhood can help reduce child poverty;

Whereas responsible fatherhood strengthens families and communities; and

Whereas Father's Day is the third Sunday in June: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the millions of fathers who serve as wonderful, caring parents for their children;

(2) calls on fathers across the United States to use Father's Day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children's lives, to spend Father's Day with their children, and to express their love and support for their children;

(3) urges men to understand the level of responsibility fathering a child requires, especially in the encouragement of the moral, academic, and spiritual development of children; and

(4) encourages active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children, including the devotion of time, energy, and resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1243 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 1243 which recognizes the contributions of millions of fathers in the lives of their children. This coming Sunday, June 15, is Father's Day, so this is an appropriate time to stop and commend the millions of fathers who serve as wonderful, caring parents for their children.

Fathers can play a special role in the rearing and development of their children, and I commend the millions of fathers across our country for devoting their time, energy, and resources to improving the well-being of their children.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention that this is not just a day for children to honor their fathers, or for adults to honor their fathers, it is also a day, I believe, for fathers to recognize the blessing that they have been given to mean so much in the lives of their children.

When I was a columnist years ago, I began writing columns about my son and being my son's father. What was interesting about them is each year that I did that, they were always the most popular columns that I wrote because they were human subjects that many people could relate to.

The first one I wrote, which was June of 1994, I wrote this: "When I was growing up, I figured Father's Day was the day when I was supposed to acknowledge my gratitude for everything my dad did for me. Now that I'm a dad, I know it is really something much different. It's a reminder of how wonderful it is to be an important part of someone else's life, to shoulder responsibility, to love without conditions or expectations."

So I want to make a personal comment that Father's Day is about being a father as much as paying honor to your father.

With that, Mr. Speaker, once again I want to express my support for H. Res. 1243 that acknowledges the importance of fathers in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1243, recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

Pope John Paul XXIII once stated: "It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father." The truism of those words is exceedingly relevant today.

The presence of two committed, involved parents contributes directly to better academic importance, reduced substance abuse, less crime and delinquency, fewer emotional and other behavioral problems, less risk of abuse or neglect, and lower risk of teen suicide.

The research is clear, fathers factor significantly in the lives of their children. There is simply no substitute for the love, involvement, and for the commitment of a responsible father.

Fathers today have a responsibility to set aside quality time with their children, such as attending their children's school events, games and activities. They also involve their children in their lives and the adult world by taking them to work, or taking them along when the car needs to be repaired, or involving them in decisions that affect the family.

As advisors and role models, fathers help their children to understand the difference between right and wrong and to recognize how the decisions they make today can affect the rest of their lives.

□ 1700

Fathers instill important values and prepare their children for challenges and opportunities ahead by demonstrating true leadership. Their love and their devotion inspire the future generation of Americans to achieve their dreams, and demonstrate their true spirit of our country.

A father is one of the most important influences in a child's life. And on Father's Day, and every day, we honor our fathers who celebrate this special bond between a father and a child.

And so as fathers and children all across the country prepare this Sunday to mark that special day in which fathers are honored for all they do, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Father's Day celebrations are a time of great happiness and family bonding. Many families will try to escape for a

day, perhaps taking a trip to a favorite landmark or to the ball park, building precious memories for dad and children alike.

Unfortunately, for many families, these joyous celebrations will not be an option this year. With the price of gasoline reaching \$4.02 per gallon just recently, for the first time in history, Americans are struggling to put fuel in their cars. They're struggling to make everyday purchases. And they're sacrificing the types of celebrations that would normally mark the occasion of Father's Day.

Although the majority has thus far refused to unveil its long-promised plan to bring down the price of gasoline, Republicans are not willing to stand by while our families suffer. That's why we've offered a plan of our own to increase production here at home, thereby creating American jobs, while also encouraging the development of energy alternatives and promoting conservation.

We owe it to the American families, including the fathers, who just want to be able to spend quality time with their children, to finally deliver solutions to the current energy crisis. We need to bring down the price of energy sources that fuel our lives.

I would like to reserve the balance of my time at this point, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I have the great honor of introducing and yielding as much time as he may consume to the sponsor of the bill, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) for yielding, and also for the tremendous addition that he has been to the United States House of Representatives, and how much I enjoy serving with him on the Education Committee.

I also want to commend the sponsors of this resolution because I don't think that there is any other day that perhaps should be more important than the concept of Father's Day.

We all recount and remember our own childhood, growing up. I remember my father always trying to encourage us to do things like go to bed early, get up early, study hard, work hard, go to church. My father had all these little pithy sayings that he used to say to us, and he'd say things like, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

Then I remember when my brothers and I got to be teenagers, and he would tell us that; and we'd say, Dad, we really thank you for your wisdom. Of course the fellows have a different saying now. They say, "Early to bed, early to rise and the girls go out with the other guys."

Nevertheless, the things that he taught continued to be the things that I value. Self-sufficiency, always being

able to look out not only for yourself, but for others.

Unfortunately, we have seen a tremendous rise in single-parent families, where we experience much too often the absence of fathers. And there are things that we know about the absence of fathers. We know that children who grow up without the presence of a father are more likely to drop out of school, more likely to experience teen pregnancy, more likely to experience juvenile delinquency, more likely to be incarcerated.

And so I simply want to take this moment to thank the Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood, and a group that I work with called Fathers Who Care. On Saturday of this past week, as we do every year before Father's Day, we had a full day of activity at the Malcolm X Community College for 400 men who came and talked about fatherhood. And we encouraged those who had been away from their children to know that they can have father relationships even if they aren't employed, that even if they've been incarcerated and away from their families, they can still come back; that nothing takes the place of the positive interaction between father and child. And not only just your individual child.

I had so many fathers growing up until I just can't name them all. I had father uncles, I had father cousins, I had father neighbors, I had friends of the family, all of whom practiced the art of fatherhood. And I don't believe that I would be standing here today as a Member of Congress had I not had the influence of those men in my life.

Again I commend the sponsors of this resolution, urge its passage.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) as much time as he may consume.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, as I look forward to celebrating Father's Day this weekend, I was proud to introduce House Resolution 1243, which honors fathers across the country by recognizing the important role that fathers play in shaping the lives of our Nation's young people, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children.

Being a father is one of the greatest blessings of my life. I love my job, but I look forward to the end of the week when I can head back home to Tulsa to be with my family.

My children, Tommy, Meredith, Sydney and Daniel are my number one priority, and I strive every day to show them they are important. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all fathers to spend extra quality time with their children on Father's Day, and to continue to do so throughout the year.

I introduced this legislation not only to honor fathers but to call attention to the importance of the job. The role that fathers play in the development of our youth cannot be overstated.

The absence of fathers contributes to many social problems that we, as legislators, fight to prevent daily. According to findings by the National Fatherhood Initiative, the closer adolescents feel to their fathers, regardless of the type of family structure in which they live, the less likely it is that they will engage in the use of drugs or delinquent behavior. Involved and proactive fathers help to shape confident and productive future citizens.

So as we honor fathers on Father's Day, we should also encourage men to evaluate their own participation in their children's lives, because you never can be too involved.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Responsible Fatherhood, as a father and a concerned citizen, I ask my colleagues to join me in spreading the message of responsible fatherhood to all levels of society, and encouraging more fathers to reconnect with their children by supporting House Resolution 1243.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just thank and compliment the gentleman from Oklahoma for bringing this resolution to the floor, and for bringing awareness to the people who are fathers, and reminding them of the tremendous role that they have in America and the youth development of our children, and to thank them for their participation in that role.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1243, a resolution that recognizes the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supports responsible fatherhood, and encourages greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day. As cochairman of the Congressional Task Force on Responsible Fatherhood, I thank my colleague, Mr. SULLIVAN, for his work on this important matter.

Six days from now, our Nation will celebrate the special place that fathers have in our country.

From helping with homework to playing ball to reading a book to offering advice, prayers and support, and to just listening, each and every day fathers of all ages contribute to the mental, moral, and spiritual development of children, teenagers, and adults.

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have a healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and good behavior, and avoid high-risk activity such as drug use and criminal activity.

H. Res. 1243 recognizes the commitment of fathers, and the wonderful work that both parents do on behalf of their kids, and I encourage my colleagues to join with us as we all recommit ourselves to being the best father we can to children everywhere.

And in conclusion, I would like to publicly thank my father, Dr. Douglas McIntyre, for the great example he has been to me and for the dedication and support he has shown in my every endeavor. And I am most grateful to God both for my dad and for the absolutely wonderful opportunity I have to be the father of two amazing, accomplished sons, Joshua and Stephen.

Happy Father's Day to fathers everywhere. Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I think that all of us agree that this is something that transcends party, transcends geography and transcends economics. We all treasure our fathers, and I urge that this resolution be adopted by the House.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1243.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALASKA AS THE 49TH STATE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 127) recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 127

Whereas July 7, 2008, marks the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Alaska Statehood Act as approved by the United States Congress and signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower;

Whereas the Alaska Statehood Act authorized the entry of Alaska into the Union on January 3, 1959;

Whereas the land once known as "Seward's Folly" is now regarded as critical to the strategic defense of the United States and important to our national and economic security;

Whereas the people of Alaska remain committed to the preservation and protection of the Union, with among the highest rates of veterans and residents in active military service of any State in the Nation;

Whereas Alaska is the northernmost, westernmost, and easternmost State of the Union, encompassing an area one-fifth the size of the United States;

Whereas the State of Alaska has an abundance of natural resources vital to the Nation;

Whereas Alaska currently provides over 16 percent of the daily crude oil production in the United States and has 44 percent of the undiscovered oil resources and 36 percent of the undiscovered conventional gas in the United States;

Whereas Alaska's 34,000 miles of shoreline form a gateway to one of the world's greatest fisheries, providing over 60 percent of the country's commercial seafood harvest;

Whereas over 230 million acres of Alaska are set aside in national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, and other conserva-

tion units for the benefit of the entire country;

Whereas over 58 million acres are designated wilderness in Alaska, representing 55 percent of the wilderness areas in the United States;

Whereas Alaska Natives, the State's first people, are an integral part of Alaska's history, and preserving the culture and heritage of Alaska's Native people is of primary importance;

Whereas the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 signaled a new era of economic opportunity for Alaska Natives;

Whereas Alaska's Native people have made major contributions to the vitality and success of Alaska as a State;

Whereas the people of Alaska represent the pioneering spirit that built this great Nation and contribute to our cultural and ethnic diversity; and

Whereas the golden anniversary, on January 3, 2009, provides an occasion to honor Alaska's entry into the Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 127 which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the State of Alaska, and highlights its contributions to America's economy and heritage.

H. Res. 127 was introduced by our colleague, Congressman DON YOUNG of Alaska, on February 5, 2007. On April 16, 2008, H. Res. 127 was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee by voice vote. This measure has the support and cosponsorship of over 50 Members of Congress, including all of the delegation from the State of Alaska.

On October 18, 1867, the Alaskan peninsula was purchased from Russia and, in 1912, after major development during the Gold Rush era, Alaska was granted territorial status.

Enshrined as the 49th State of the Union on January 3, 1959, Alaska is commonly referred to as the last frontier. And the word Alaska, which is derived from the indigenous Aleut language, means mainland or, literally, the object towards which the action of the sea is directed.